

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic program guide (EPG) circuit comprising:
 - a) an EPG processor circuit, including a central processing unit (CPU), supplied with a video signal input, a horizontal sync input, and a vertical sync input, wherein the video signal input includes EPG program information in electronic form describing viewable programs which is extracted from the video signal by the EPG processor circuit;
 - b) a read only memory (ROM) connected to the EPG processor circuit for storing a program used by the EPG's CPU; and
 - c) a random access memory supplied with the EPG program information by the EPG processor circuit, for storing EPG program information for a plurality of episodes of a given program.
2. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein the EPG processor circuit outputs an on screen display (OSD) signal for displaying the history information of a selected episode of a program.
3. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, further comprising a non-volatile memory for storing user specific information pertaining to the EPG circuit.
4. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein the EPG program information is extended data service data contained in the vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

5. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein video signal is a digital signal and the EPG program information is in the digital signal's program specific information protocol (PSIP).
6. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein the EPG program information is received via the Internet.
7. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein the EPG program information is received via a public switched telephone network.
8. An EPG circuit according to claim 1, wherein the EPG program information is received via a cable system's out of band (OOB) data stream.